

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
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C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 09725

BELGRADE FOR USDEL CSCE

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: CSCE, SHUM, PINT, UR, UK
SUBJECT: LONDON "TRIAL" OF YURIY ORLOV

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. JOHN MACDONALD, QC, UNABLE TO SECURE A SOVIET ENTRY VISA TO DEFEND PROFESSOR YURIY ORLOV IN THE USSR, HELD O PUBLIC DEFENSE OF ORLOV IN LONDON ON JUNE 13. WITNESSES AT THE ALL-DAY SESSION INCLUDED VLADIMIR BUKOVSKIY, ANDREI ALMARIK, VITALIY RUBIN, LYUDMILA ALEKSEYEVA, LEONID PLYUSCH, AND NATALYA GORBANEVSKAYA; TOGETHER, THIS GROUP REPRESENTED THE MOST PRESTIGIOUS GATHERING OF SOVIET EXILES THE UK HAS SEEN. AMONG THE NON-SOVIET EXPERTS PARTICIPATING IN THE PROCEEDINGS WERE FORMER US ATTORNEY GENERAL RAMSEY CLARK, THE REV. MICHAEL BORDEAUX, AND DR. GERRY LOW BEER.

2. WHILE TIMED TO PRECEDE IMMEDIATELY THE OPENING OF THE BELGRADE PREPARATORY CONFERENCE, MACDONALD'S PUBLIC
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DEFENSE OF ORLOV WAS DESIGNED TO HAVE A ORACTICAL AS WELL AS PROPAGANDA EFFECT; SOVIET LAW REQUIRES ACCEOTANCE BY THE COURTS OF ALL RELEVANT WRITTEN MATERIAL SUBMITTED IN CONNECTION WITH A CASE, AND THE TRANSCRIPTS OF TESTIMONY GIVEN AT MACDONALD'S DEFENSE PROCEEDINGS WILL BE SENT TO MOSCOW PUBLIC PROSECUTOR ALEKSANDR TIKHONOV, WHO IS HANDLING ORLOV'S CASE. (WE ARE OOUCHING COPIES

OF THE TRANSCRIPTS TO EUR/SOV AND EMBASSY MOSCOW.) END
UNCLASSIFIED.

3. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL. INVITATIONS TO ATTEND THE
DEFENSE WERE SENT TO LONDON-BASED DIPLOMATS, JOURNALISTS,
AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. THE PRESS (NEWSPAPERS AND
TELEVISION) WAS SUBSTANTIALLY REPRESENTED, AND EMBOFF
WHO ATTENDED OBSERVED COLLEAGUES FROM SEVERAL WESTERN
EMBASSIES. HMG WAS NOT, HOWEVER, OFFICIALLY REPRESENTED
IN THE AUDIENCE. FCO SOURCES HAVE CONFIDED TO US THAT
THE INVITATION TO FOREIGN SECRETARY OWEN TO ATTEND OR
SEND A REPRESENTATIVE CAUSED CONSIDERABLE HAND-WRINGING
IN THE FOREIGN OFFICE, WITH STRONG ARGUMENTS BEING MADE
BOTH PRO AND CON. A HIGH-LEVEL DECISION WAS FINALLY
TAKEN NOT TO ATTEND, AND MACDONALD WAS INFORMED THAT
DR. OWEN FELT THIS WAS ONE OF THOSE OCCASIONS WHEN THE
NATIONAL INTEREST WAS BEST SERVED BY THE GOVERNMENT NOT
ASSOCIATING ITSELF WITH A PRIVATE INITIATIVE. ACCORDING
TO OUR SOURCES, HMG IS BRACING ITSELF FOR CRITICISM IN
THE PRESS AND/OR IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS FOR THIS
POSITION. END CONFIDENTIAL.

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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